

Briefly Told

In the biography of Mrs. W. E. Gladstone, just published, many interesting glimpses of the home life of the great premier are given. One is his habit of singing with his wife when any adversity overtook them: "A ragamuffin husband and a rantipoling wife, We'll fiddle it and scrape it through the ups and downs of life."

A Brahmin day is 60 hours long, each hour being 24 minutes.

On Jan. 15, Billy Sunday preached to 10,000 people the funeral sermon of John Barleycorn. Before the pulpit lay the remains of "John" in a casket 20 feet long.

Orange is one of the colors in the flag of the proposed Irish republic.

Sir Oliver Lodge, now in the United States, says that "the human body is composed of matter and ether. The material part wears out after seventy-odd years, but the etherial part does not wear out."

Schumann-Heink says that housework, sweeping, moving the furniture about, making beds, etc., is excellent exercise for the woman who would develop a constitution necessary to a vocal career.

Twenty bank clerks fired at a bank robber in New York, all missing him. His capture was successfully made because, as it was afterward found, he had overdressed himself in preparation for his "job."

An undertakers' trade magazine has embarked on a campaign to bring the bodies of American soldiers back from Europe. The publication urges that it would increase American undertakers' business by 50,000 funerals without increasing the death rate. Yes—you read it correctly—an American publication!

"The Master"—Maurice Maeterlinck—became something of a light pleasanter in New York because of the financial squabbles. Finally three strong-arm men were engaged to guard him, and he rode to and from his hotel room in the elevator that conveyed linen to the laundry.

The humble potato and a rasher of bacon were the only edibles permitted for the cookery test for a scholarship awarded by the London County Council. And the contestants were not through until they had eaten their own cooking.

A national subscription has been open in Britain for the purpose of securing funds with which to present Bemersyde, his ancestral estate, to Field Marshal Haig.

"Lottery—see gambling," says the dictionary with terseness and truth.

It is not generally known that "Dan," of Rudyard Kipling's fairy tales—his son Jack—Lieut. John Kipling—has been "missing" since the battle of Loos. They say you can look through the windows of the Kipling house at Burwash any night, and see the poet sitting where he used to spin tales to his boy.

On changing cars at Englewood station on his way home from the Washington speech, W. J. Bryan met a delegation of Englewood business men at the station. They wanted to take him to a hotel but the Commoner steered them into a nearby clothing store and held the conference there.

The prickly pear, an Australian pest, conquers 1,000,000 acres a year, if left unhindered.

The Y. W. C. A. is designated by a blue triangle.

Gypsy Smith, though an evangelist, says that in all his service in France he never once prayed that he might not be killed. "But I did pray that I might not get cooties—and my prayer was answered."

Clement K. Shorter, the brilliant literary editor of the London Sphere, says of A. Conan Doyle: "I am amazed that he, upon whom I looked as the very type of a sturdy, self-reliant, healthy-minded man, should have indulged himself in two such books as the New Revelation and the Vital Message. That they sell I have no manner of doubt, but that they do a lot of harm I am equally certain."

A copy of Shakespeare, containing nine plays and published in 1619, has been sold in the United States for \$100,000.

The bronze horses of St. Mark's of Venice, after having been hidden in Rome to save them from enemy bombs, have again been hoisted to their position on the cathedral.

There is no longer a member in Parliament for Dunwich, because Dunwich is no more. The sea has gradually washed it away. In 1677 the sea reached the market place. In 1816 all but 40 houses and the church had disappeared. In 1832 no houses were left. This winter the last ruins of the church were washed down.

The Negro of the United States owns 20,000,000 acres of land, 500,000 homes, 398 newspapers and periodicals, 31,393 churches and \$26,000,000 in church property. There are 3,000 colored physicians, 1,000 trained nurses, 2,000 lawyers and 500 authors and inventors.

The new Lord Mayor of London is a musician. Besides being an accomplished organist he is a member of St. Paul's choir.

There are 150,000 times more germs in one small part of the human body than there are human beings on the globe.

The first concert hall ever built in the Orient has just been completed on a private estate near Tokio.

Holland is sending Germany \$80,000,000 worth of raw material in return for part of the stuff in manufactured form, and for coal and potash.

As a protest against the price of shoes, Australian parents are sending their children barefooted to school. The children like it.

The cormorant, an aquatic bird of China, is used by the natives who live on inland rivers to catch fish. A cord is tied around the lower part of the neck of the bird, preventing it from swallowing the large fish. These fish the birds give up to their owners, who have strings tied to their legs by which the birds are recalled when they have made a catch.

As the occasional poet says: "Work and the world works with you; strike and you strike alone."

"Play production has degenerated into play speculation," says Arthur Hornblow, explaining the "degenerate" art of the American theater.

Retail clothing dealers were personally warned at their recent convention by an assistant United States attorney sent from Washington, that profiteering must cease. He told them that on suits retailing at \$75 and less the profits were from \$30 to \$60.

Burton Holmes, the travel lecturer, after a tour of the American military cemeteries in France, strongly advises against the removal of soldiers' bodies to America. It would entail endless misery on the surviving relatives.

Paris evades the number 13. Houses which are due for that number are given 12½.

American military officers have almost unanimously expressed through military channels a preference for roll collars, the Sam Brown belt, blue for dress uniforms, and the right to wear civilian clothes off duty.

Sunday newspapers have been prohibited in Madrid because their lurid sensationalism, combined with the idleness of the populace on that day, caused public disorder.

Because of the hazy observational faculties of many people who have seen Joseph Jefferson play "Rip Van Winkle" and who swear they have seen the dog Schneider on the stage, Josephine Jefferson, the actor's daughter, writes that her father never used a dog of any description on the stage.

A lock of Napoleon's hair brought \$80 at a London auction.

Reginald de Koven, at the time of his death, had 44 operas to his credit. He left a \$3,000 bank job for a musical career, and made \$35,000 the first year.

Berlin newspapers say the French navy is in revolt because it cannot get bread, and Rome newspapers say the United States is on the verge of a terrible revolution.

"The Father of All the Sovereigns of the Earth," is the modest title assumed by the Sultan of Turkey. Incidentally, he is the only Emperor on the German side of the war to keep his throne.

Lincoln said on February 22, 1842: "When there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on earth—how proud the title of that land which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both those revolutions." The United States, in 78 years, accomplished both.

"I doubt if they are able to judge earthly problems as well as we do. It is a mistake to regard them as oracles. We are responsible for our own acts and must use our own judgment." This was Sir Oliver Lodge's reply to a question whether the advice of "spirits" was to be relied on.

The sign of the English pound is a modification of the letter L, which is a symbol for scales weighing a pound weight. The American dollar sign (\$) is thought to be a blending of the Pillars of Hercules and a Spanish scroll.

Singers of the Chicago Grand Opera Company have been advised by the management that it is quite unnecessary for them to pay the \$20 to \$50 a week of which, rumor said, they had been mulcted in order to secure applause and ward off hisses.

It is reported from Moscow that a Bolshevik church has been established there whose purpose is "to restore the purity of the Christian and Jewish gospel."

On Armistice Night a girl reveller in a New York hotel whirled a "rattler" which hit another diner in the eye, destroying the sight. The injured diner is suing the hotel management for \$15,000.

The board of health of New Bern, North Carolina, lost the case it brought against the Christian Science Church of that place for failure to close public services during the influenza epidemic.

Profiteers are operating on the battlefields of France. Relatives seeking the graves of their soldier dead are charged exorbitant prices for guides; the cheap pine coffins in which they wish to have their dead reburied are sold at 50 times their value; and to cap the climax, numerous pretexts are used to make the unhappy pilgrims miss the last train, thus compelling them to patronize the local hotel.

A brigadier-general of the United States Army has reported to the government that 29,000 Jews had been killed in the Ukraine from political and racial motives.

Will H. Hays, Republican national chairman, has coined a good line—if it is also a true one!—"The mission of the national committee is to elect—not select—candidates." Maybe the "selection" is a more private matter still.

Master shoemakers say that one cause of the high prices of footwear is the demand for the very best grades, by people who formerly wore medium grades of shoes.

The first rice ever shipped from America to the Orient has been sent from California. It was made necessary by the failure of the rice crop of Japan and China.

They continue to fix the sugar prices, but always at a higher rate. No price is "fixed"; it is decidedly movable. The thing sought seems to be uniformity of price.

Six lines of railway and several lines of ships will be devoted by the French Government to the return of German prisoners of war. The work of sending the men home began 24 hours after Germany sent the railway cars into France. The daily shipments average 7,000 men.

The Supreme Court held that no citizen of a state could sue that state without its consent. Consent is usually given, of course. But in the case at issue, one between the "wets" and the "drys" of New Jersey, consent had not been given. The decision favored the "drys."

D'Annunzio will soon be eligible for a job with some American newspaper comic service—he now says that President Wilson "crucified justice with fourteen pointless nails."

Scientists no longer glibly talk of "millions of years" when they estimate the span of man's period on earth. Some place human history at 10,000 years. Others are convinced it is much less than 30,000 years.

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